

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, NL, CO

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFO: COLOMBIAN AMB TO NETHERLANDS

1. GUILLERMO OSPINA FERFNDEZ, NEW COLOMBIAN AMB TO THE NETHERLANDS, WAS BORN IN BOGOTA ON AUG 4, 1914. HE STUDIED AT BOGMEA'S OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY COLLEGE AND EARNED THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. THE CONSERVATIVE OSPINA HAS HAD A BRILLANT CAREER IN LAW WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COLOMBIAN SUPREME COURT FOR THE PERIOD 1970-71. HE REMAINS A MAGISTRATE OF THE HIGH COURT AND IS EXPECTED TO RESUME HIS NORMAL DUTIES UPON HIS EVENTUAL RETURN FROM THE HAGUE. BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT OSPINA SERVED IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES INCLUDING PROFESSOR OF LAW AT TWO UNIVERSITIES, DEAN OF LAW AT THE HIGHLY RESPECTED JESUIT-RUN JAVERIANA UNIVERSITY, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA AND DIRECTOR OF THE BANK OF COLOMBIA. IN LATE 1970 HE VISTED SPAIN AND WEST GERMANY AT THE INVITATION OF THE SUPREME COURTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

2. OSPINA, A MEMBER OF COLOMBIA'S FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL ELITE, IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES AND IS DESCRIBED BY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES AS A KIND AND EXCEEDINGLY CORRECT GENTLEMAN. HE IS CURRENTLY MARRIED TO EMILIA ACOSTA AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE. HIS FIRST MARRIED TO CECILIA GARAY ENDED IN TRAGEDY IN 1958 WHEN OSPINA SHOT AND KILLED HER UPON DISCOVERING HER IN A COMPROMISING SITUATION WITH AN UNKNOWN UNIVERSITY STUDENT. OSPINA WAS
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ABSOLVED OF ANY GUILT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROVO-

CATION, BUT FOR THE FOLLOWING FEW YEARS HE SLIPPED INTO
DEPRESSION AND SECLUDED HIMSELF FROM FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES.
POPULAR SYMPATHY AND URGING FROM CLOSE COMPANIONS LED HIM
BACK TO AN ACTIVE LIFE IN THE EARLY SIXTIES AND TO
CONTINUED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.
VAKY

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